

## United States Embassy Nairobi Public Affairs Section American Reference Center

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## "Volunteerism Workshop" – "Pamoja Tujitolee Tusimame Wima Tujenga Taifa" Mombasa Muslim Youth Professional come together to learn on Volunteerism Dec 10, 2011

PAS Nairobi sponsored 55 youth professionals to attend a one day workshop on volunteerism at MEWA Information Center AC on December 10, 2011. In his welcoming remarks Mewa Deputy Chairman Mr. Salim Ghalghan thanked the US Embassy for their kind support towards the Muslim community and also encouraged youth to volunteer in every aspect.

The US Embassy representative Rukiya Mwinyi, Outreach Coordinator, thanked and congratulated Mewa AC for organizing the workshop. She talked on her experience as alumni of Mewa and the need for to give to the community.

Sheikh Hammad Kassim, former Chief Kadhi talked about volunteerism from the Islamic perspective, it's not a new concept under the Islamic religion and that prophet Mohammad (PBUH) used, and the caliphs used to volunteer a lot of his time helping others.

The main facilitator was Ms Fatma Samani – IVLP alumni who participated in an exchange program in the US on "Volunteerism". She talked about the concept of volunteerism in America – definition of volunteerism; volunteer management; volunteer recruitment and selection; benefit of volunteerism both at individual and organizational level; volunteer motivation; examples of organizations that do volunteer work. The program focused on professional youth so as to give them a feeling of community involvement, advocate responsibility and also make them aware of the opportunities available through volunteering.

Youth in Kenya forms over 65% of the population; volunteerism is a great theme and for the professional youth willing to practice it will help a lot in reducing the gap between knowledge and experience on practicable work. The program has helped the youth experience personal connection to the Embassy and Mewa information center and at the same time they were exposed to positive information about the U.S. The participants were excited about the program and looked forward to future programs.



Participant receiving a certificate.



Participants during the workshop.



AC Coordinator welcoming guests